

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

(1) TERRENCE SAUNDERS,
Individually and On Behalf of All
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

(1) CHESAPEAKE ENERGY
CORPORATION,
(2) ROBERT DOUGLAS LAWLER,
and
(3) DOMENIC J. DELL'OSSO, JR.,

Defendants.

Case No. CIV-16-1150-R

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Terrence Saunders ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, by his undersigned attorneys, for his complaint against Defendants, alleges the following based upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts, and information and belief as to all other matters, based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by and through his attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of the Defendants' public documents, conference calls and announcements made by Defendants, United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings, wire and press releases published by and regarding Chesapeake Energy Corporation ("Chesapeake" or the "Company"), analysts' reports and advisories about the Company, and information readily obtainable on the Internet. Plaintiff believes that substantial

evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a federal securities class action on behalf of a class consisting of all persons other than Defendants who purchased or otherwise acquired Chesapeake securities between February 27, 2015 and September 28, 2016, both dates inclusive (the “Class Period”), seeking to recover damages caused by Defendants’ violations of the federal securities laws and to pursue remedies under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, against the Company and certain of its top officials.

2. Chesapeake engages in the acquisition, exploration, and development of properties for the production of oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids from underground reservoirs in the United States. The Company holds interests in natural gas and liquids-rich resource plays across the United States. Chesapeake owns interests in approximately 32,400 oil and natural gas wells. As of December 31, 2015, the Company had estimated proved reserves of 1.504 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

3. Chesapeake was founded in 1989 and is headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Company’s shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the ticker symbol “CHK.”

4. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants made materially false and misleading statements regarding the Company’s business, operational and compliance policies. Specifically, Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to

disclose that: (i) Chesapeake had improperly accounted for the acquisition and classification of oil and gas properties; (ii) Chesapeake lacked effective internal financial controls; and (iii) as a result of the foregoing, Chesapeake's public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

5. On September 29, 2016, pre-market, Chesapeake announced receipt of a subpoena from the U.S. Department of Justice "seeking information on our accounting methodology for the acquisition and classification of oil and gas properties and related matters."

6. On this news, the Company's stock fell \$0.63, or 9.33%, to close at \$6.12 on September 29, 2016.

7. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5).

9. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337, and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa.

10. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to §27 of the Exchange Act and 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), as the Company is headquartered within this Judicial District.

11. In connection with the acts, conduct and other wrongs alleged in this Complaint, Defendants, directly or indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including but not limited to, the United States mail, interstate telephone communications and the facilities of the national securities exchange.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff, as set forth in the attached Certification, acquired Chesapeake securities at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period and was damaged upon the revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures.

13. Defendant Chesapeake is incorporated in Oklahoma, and the Company's principal executive offices are located at 6100 North Western Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73188. Chesapeake's common stock trades on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "CHK."

14. Defendant Robert Douglas Lawler ("Lawler") has served as the Company's Chief Executive Officer since June 2013.

15. Defendant Domenic J. Dell'Oso, Jr. ("Dell'Oso") has served as the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since November 2010.

16. The Defendants described in ¶¶ 14-15 are sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "Individual Defendants."

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

Background

17. Chesapeake engages in the acquisition, exploration, and development of properties for the production of oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids from underground reservoirs in the United States. The Company holds interests in natural gas and liquids-rich resource plays across the United States. Chesapeake owns interests in approximately 32,400 oil and natural gas wells. As of December 31, 2015, the Company had estimated proved reserves of 1.504 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period

18. The Class Period begins on February 27, 2015, when Chesapeake filed an Annual Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2014 (the "2014 10-K"). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported net income of \$668 million, or \$0.76 per diluted share, on revenue of \$4.77 billion, compared to a net loss of \$116 million, or \$0.24 per diluted share, on revenue of \$4.55 billion for the same period in the prior year. For 2014, Chesapeake reported net income of \$1.92 billion, or \$1.65 per diluted share, on revenue of \$21.73 billion, compared to net income of \$724 million, or \$0.73 per diluted share, on revenue of \$17.28 billion for 2013. Chesapeake also reported that it had incurred costs of \$6.06 billion "in oil and natural gas property acquisitions, exploration and development activities" in 2014, compared to costs of \$6.61 billion in 2013.

19. In the 2014 10-K, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$230 million, \$317 million and \$434 million of internal costs in the 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, directly related to our oil and natural gas property acquisition and drilling and completion efforts. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease in our drilling activity, lower costs and increased emphasis on operational efficiencies.

20. The 2014 10-K contained signed certifications pursuant to the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the 2014 10-K was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

21. On May 6, 2015, Chesapeake issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing certain of the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2015 (the “Q1 2015 8-K”). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$3.74 billion, or \$5.72 per diluted share, on revenue of \$3.49 billion, compared to net income of \$425 million, or \$0.54 per diluted share, on revenue of \$5.19 billion for the same period in the prior year. Chesapeake also reported costs of \$128 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved properties for the quarter, compared to costs of \$187 million for the same period in the prior year.

22. On May 6, 2015, Chesapeake also filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reiterating the information previously announced in the Q1 2015 8-K and

reporting in full the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2015 (the "Q1 2015 10-Q").

23. In the Q1 2015 10-Q, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$48 million and \$57 million of internal costs in the Current Quarter and the Prior Quarter, respectively, directly related to our oil and natural gas property acquisition and drilling and completion efforts. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease in our drilling activity, lower costs and increased emphasis on operational efficiencies.

24. The Q1 2015 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q1 2015 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

25. On August 5, 2015, Chesapeake issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing certain of the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30, 2015 (the "Q2 2015 8-K"). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$4.11 billion, or \$6.27 per diluted share, on revenue of \$3.82 billion, compared to net income of \$191 million, or \$0.22 per diluted share, on revenue of \$5.15 billion for the same period in the prior year. Chesapeake also reported costs of \$138 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved properties for the quarter, compared to costs of \$169 million for the same period in the prior year.

26. On August 5, 2015, Chesapeake also filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reiterating the information previously announced in the Q2 2015 8-K and reporting in full the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30, 2015 (the "Q2 2015 10-Q").

27. In the Q2 2015 10-Q, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$65 million and \$55 million of internal costs in the Current Quarter and the Prior Quarter, respectively, directly related to our oil and natural gas property acquisition and drilling and completion efforts. The increase was primarily due to capitalized payroll related costs as well as an increase in overhead.

28. The Q2 2015 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q2 2015 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

29. On November 4, 2015, Chesapeake issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing certain of the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 (the "Q3 2015 8-K"). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$4.65 billion, or \$7.08 per diluted share, on revenue of \$2.96 billion, compared to net income of \$662 million, or \$0.26 per diluted share, on revenue of \$5.08 billion for the same period in the prior year. Chesapeake also reported costs of \$141 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved

properties for the quarter, compared to costs of \$667 million for the same period in the prior year.

30. On November 4, 2015, Chesapeake also filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reiterating the information previously announced in the Q3 2015 8-K and reporting in full the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 (the "Q3 2015 10-Q").

31. In the Q3 2015 10-Q, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$43 million and \$52 million of internal costs in the Current Quarter and the Prior Quarter, respectively, directly related to our leasehold acquisition and drilling and completion efforts. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease in capitalized payroll-related costs.

32. The Q3 2015 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q3 2015 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

33. On February 24, 2016, Chesapeake issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing certain of the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2015 (the "2015 8-K"). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$2.19 billion, or \$3.36 per diluted share, on revenue of \$2.7 billion, compared to net income of \$639 million, or \$0.76 per diluted share,

on revenue of \$4.77 billion for the same period in the prior year. For 2015, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$14.69 billion, or \$22.43 per diluted share, on revenue of \$13.46 billion, compared to net income of \$1.92 billion, or \$1.65 per diluted share, on revenue of \$21.73 billion for 2014. Chesapeake also reported costs of \$126 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved properties for the quarter, compared to costs of \$288 million for the same period in the prior year. For 2015, Chesapeake reported costs of \$533 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved properties, compared to costs of \$1.31 billion for 2014.

34. On February 25, 2016, Chesapeake filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC, reiterating the information previously announced in the 2015 8-K and reporting in full the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2015 (the "2015 10-K").

35. In the 2015 10-K, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$196 million, \$230 million and \$317 million of internal costs in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively, directly related to our leasehold acquisition and drilling and completion efforts.

36. The 2015 10-K contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the 2015 10-K was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

37. On May 5, 2016, Chesapeake issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing certain of the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2016 (the "Q1 2016 8-K"). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$921 million, or \$1.44 per diluted share, on revenue of \$2.0 billion, compared to a net loss of \$3.74 billion, or \$5.72 per diluted share, on revenue of \$3.49 billion for the same period in the prior year. Chesapeake also reported costs of \$27 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved properties for the quarter, compared to costs of \$128 million for the same period in the prior year.

38. On May 5, 2016, Chesapeake also filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reiterating the information previously announced in the Q1 2016 8-K and reporting in full the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2016 (the "Q1 2016 10-Q").

39. In the Q1 2016 10-Q, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$37 million and \$48 million of internal costs in the Current Quarter and the Prior Quarter, respectively, directly related to our leasehold acquisition and drilling and completion efforts.

40. The Q1 2016 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q1 2016 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

41. On August 4, 2016, Chesapeake issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing certain of the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30, 2016 (the "Q2 2016 8-K"). For the quarter, Chesapeake reported a net loss of \$1.75 billion, or \$2.48 per diluted share, on revenue of \$2.17 billion, compared to net income of \$4.11 billion, or \$6.27 per diluted share, on revenue of \$3.82 billion for the same period in the prior year. Chesapeake also reported costs of \$359 million associated with the acquisitions of proved and unproved properties for the quarter, compared to costs of \$138 million for the same period in the prior year.

42. On August 4, 2016, Chesapeake also filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, reiterating the information previously announced in the Q2 2016 8-K and reporting in full the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2016 (the "Q2 2016 10-Q").

43. In the Q2 2016 10-Q, Chesapeake stated, in part:

Chesapeake follows the full cost method of accounting under which all costs associated with oil and natural gas property acquisition, drilling and completion activities are capitalized. We capitalize internal costs that can be directly identified with the acquisition of leasehold, as well as drilling and completion activities, and do not include any costs related to production, general corporate overhead or similar activities. We capitalized \$37 million and \$48 million of internal costs in the Current Quarter and the Prior Quarter, respectively, directly related to our leasehold acquisition and drilling and completion efforts.

44. The Q2 2016 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q2 2016 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

45. The statements referenced in ¶¶ 18-44 were materially false and misleading because Defendants made false and/or misleading statements, as well as failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business, operational and compliance policies. Specifically, Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i) Chesapeake had improperly accounted for the acquisition and classification of oil and gas properties; (ii) Chesapeake lacked effective internal financial controls; and (iii) as a result of the foregoing, Chesapeake's public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

The Truth Emerges

46. On September 29, 2016, pre-market, Chesapeake announced receipt of a subpoena from the U.S. Department of Justice "seeking information on our accounting methodology for the acquisition and classification of oil and gas properties and related matters."

47. On this news, the Company's stock fell \$0.63, or 9.33%, to close at \$6.12 on September 29, 2016.

48. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

PLAINTIFF'S CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

49. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a Class, consisting of all those who purchased or

otherwise acquired Chesapeake securities during the Class Period (the “Class”); and were damaged upon the revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures. Excluded from the Class are Defendants herein, the officers and directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.

50. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, Chesapeake securities were actively traded on the NYSE. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds or thousands of members in the proposed Class. Record owners and other members of the Class may be identified from records maintained by Chesapeake or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.

51. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants’ wrongful conduct in violation of federal law that is complained of herein.

52. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with those of the Class.

53. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

- whether the federal securities laws were violated by Defendants' acts as alleged herein;
- whether statements made by Defendants to the investing public during the Class Period misrepresented material facts about the business, operations and management of Chesapeake;
- whether the Individual Defendants caused Chesapeake to issue false and misleading financial statements during the Class Period;
- whether Defendants acted knowingly or recklessly in issuing false and misleading financial statements;
- whether the prices of Chesapeake securities during the Class Period were artificially inflated because of the Defendants' conduct complained of herein; and
- whether the members of the Class have sustained damages and, if so, what is the proper measure of damages.

54. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

55. Plaintiff will rely, in part, upon the presumption of reliance established by the fraud-on-the-market doctrine in that:

- Defendants made public misrepresentations or failed to disclose material facts during the Class Period;
- the omissions and misrepresentations were material;
- Chesapeake securities are traded in an efficient market;

- the Company's shares were liquid and traded with moderate to heavy volume during the Class Period;
- the Company traded on the NYSE and was covered by multiple analysts;
- the misrepresentations and omissions alleged would tend to induce a reasonable investor to misjudge the value of the Company's securities; and
- Plaintiff and members of the Class purchased, acquired and/or sold Chesapeake securities between the time the Defendants failed to disclose or misrepresented material facts and the time the true facts were disclosed, without knowledge of the omitted or misrepresented facts.

56. Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to a presumption of reliance upon the integrity of the market.

57. Alternatively, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to the presumption of reliance established by the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128, 92 S. Ct. 2430 (1972), as Defendants omitted material information in their Class Period statements in violation of a duty to disclose such information, as detailed above.

COUNT I

(Against All Defendants For Violations of Section 10(b) And Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder)

58. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

59. This Count is asserted against Defendants and is based upon Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC.

60. During the Class Period, Defendants engaged in a plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon Plaintiff and the other members of the Class; made various untrue statements of material facts and omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud in connection with the purchase and sale of securities. Such scheme was intended to, and, throughout the Class Period, did: (i) deceive the investing public, including Plaintiff and other Class members, as alleged herein; (ii) artificially inflate and maintain the market price of Chesapeake securities; and (iii) cause Plaintiff and other members of the Class to purchase or otherwise acquire Chesapeake securities and options at artificially inflated prices. In furtherance of this unlawful scheme, plan and course of conduct, Defendants, and each of them, took the actions set forth herein.

61. Pursuant to the above plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, each of the Defendants participated directly or indirectly in the preparation and/or issuance of the quarterly and annual reports, SEC filings, press releases and other statements and documents described above, including statements made to securities analysts and the media that were designed to influence the market for Chesapeake securities. Such reports, filings, releases and statements were materially false and misleading in that they failed to disclose material adverse information and misrepresented the truth about Chesapeake's finances and business prospects.

62. By virtue of their positions at Chesapeake, Defendants had actual knowledge of the materially false and misleading statements and material omissions alleged herein and intended thereby to deceive Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, or, in the alternative, Defendants acted with reckless disregard for the truth in that they failed or refused to ascertain and disclose such facts as would reveal the materially false and misleading nature of the statements made, although such facts were readily available to Defendants. Said acts and omissions of Defendants were committed willfully or with reckless disregard for the truth. In addition, each Defendant knew or recklessly disregarded that material facts were being misrepresented or omitted as described above.

63. Information showing that Defendants acted knowingly or with reckless disregard for the truth is peculiarly within Defendants' knowledge and control. As the senior managers and/or directors of Chesapeake, the Individual Defendants had knowledge of the details of Chesapeake's internal affairs.

64. The Individual Defendants are liable both directly and indirectly for the wrongs complained of herein. Because of their positions of control and authority, the Individual Defendants were able to and did, directly or indirectly, control the content of the statements of Chesapeake. As officers and/or directors of a publicly-held company, the Individual Defendants had a duty to disseminate timely, accurate, and truthful information with respect to Chesapeake's businesses, operations, future financial condition and future prospects. As a result of the dissemination of the aforementioned false and misleading reports, releases and public statements, the market price of Chesapeake securities was artificially inflated throughout the Class Period. In ignorance of the adverse facts

concerning Chesapeake's business and financial condition which were concealed by Defendants, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired Chesapeake securities at artificially inflated prices and relied upon the price of the securities, the integrity of the market for the securities and/or upon statements disseminated by Defendants, and were damaged thereby.

65. During the Class Period, Chesapeake securities were traded on an active and efficient market. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, relying on the materially false and misleading statements described herein, which the Defendants made, issued or caused to be disseminated, or relying upon the integrity of the market, purchased or otherwise acquired shares of Chesapeake securities at prices artificially inflated by Defendants' wrongful conduct. Had Plaintiff and the other members of the Class known the truth, they would not have purchased or otherwise acquired said securities, or would not have purchased or otherwise acquired them at the inflated prices that were paid. At the time of the purchases and/or acquisitions by Plaintiff and the Class, the true value of Chesapeake securities was substantially lower than the prices paid by Plaintiff and the other members of the Class. The market price of Chesapeake securities declined sharply upon public disclosure of the facts alleged herein to the injury of Plaintiff and Class members.

66. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants knowingly or recklessly, directly or indirectly, have violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.

67. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their respective

purchases, acquisitions and sales of the Company's securities during the Class Period, upon the disclosure that the Company had been disseminating misrepresented financial statements to the investing public.

COUNT II

(Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act Against The Individual Defendants)

68. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

69. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants participated in the operation and management of Chesapeake, and conducted and participated, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of Chesapeake's business affairs. Because of their senior positions, they knew the adverse non-public information about Chesapeake's misstatement of income and expenses and false financial statements.

70. As officers and/or directors of a publicly owned company, the Individual Defendants had a duty to disseminate accurate and truthful information with respect to Chesapeake's financial condition and results of operations, and to correct promptly any public statements issued by Chesapeake which had become materially false or misleading.

71. Because of their positions of control and authority as senior officers, the Individual Defendants were able to, and did, control the contents of the various reports, press releases and public filings which Chesapeake disseminated in the marketplace during the Class Period concerning Chesapeake's results of operations. Throughout the Class Period, the Individual Defendants exercised their power and authority to cause Chesapeake

to engage in the wrongful acts complained of herein. The Individual Defendants therefore, were “controlling persons” of Chesapeake within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. In this capacity, they participated in the unlawful conduct alleged which artificially inflated the market price of Chesapeake securities.

72. Each of the Individual Defendants, therefore, acted as a controlling person of Chesapeake. By reason of their senior management positions and/or being directors of Chesapeake, each of the Individual Defendants had the power to direct the actions of, and exercised the same to cause, Chesapeake to engage in the unlawful acts and conduct complained of herein. Each of the Individual Defendants exercised control over the general operations of Chesapeake and possessed the power to control the specific activities which comprise the primary violations about which Plaintiff and the other members of the Class complain.

73. By reason of the above conduct, the Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for the violations committed by Chesapeake.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

A. Determining that the instant action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and certifying Plaintiff as the Class representative;

B. Requiring Defendants to pay damages sustained by Plaintiff and the Class by reason of the acts and transactions alleged herein;

C. Awarding Plaintiff and the other members of the Class prejudgment and post-judgment interest, as well as their reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees and other costs; and

D. Awarding such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: October 3, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William B. Federman

William B. Federman

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Pro hac vice applications pending